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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: HAMADA, Akira et al.

Serial No.: 09/998,912

Filed: December 3, 2001



Group Art Unit: 1745

Examiner: MERCADO, Julian A.

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4274

For: **GAS DIFFUSION LAYER FOR FUEL CELL AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD OF THE SAME**

RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: March 22, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated **February 23, 2004**.

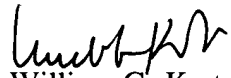
In the Action, restriction is required between Group (I), Claim 7, drawn to the process of making; and Group (II), Claims 1-6, drawn to the product.

Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group (II), Claims 1-6 for prosecution in this application. This election is made without traverse, it being understood that the applicants' rights to the filing of a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter under 35 USC 120 and 35 USC 121 are retained.

In the event any additional fees are required in connection with this response, please
charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE